



Travel

10 great places to drink in the scenery

A wave of rooftop bars and lounges is luring fun-seekers to new heights. And thanks to heaters and fire pits, some clubs keep outdoor decks open into winter. **Scott Gerber**, who developed The Whiskey at New York's Paramount Hotel and runs 27 bars and restaurants around the world, says the bars offer ever-changing scenery. "When you get up on these rooftops, the views of these cities are incredible," he says. As a nightlife trend-setter, he knows the industry, and he shares some favorite rooftop lounges with **Larry Bleiberg** for USA TODAY.



Top of the Hub Boston

You can't beat the perspective from the top-floor restaurant and lounge at the Prudential Tower. The 52nd floor offers 100-mile views on clear nights, and it's indoors, lest you be blown away by coastal gusts. This is a place for special occasions, Gerber says. "They've got jazz and a lot of live bands." 617-536-1775; topofthehub.net

Boston: Top of the Hub restaurant offers sweeping views from the 52nd floor atop the Prudential Tower.

39 Degrees Aspen, Colo.

This ski-in lounge at the Sky Hotel is right off the slopes. It has a deck with a fire pit, hot tub and heated pool, open to anyone who buys a beverage — and not just hotel guests. Gerber says it's the perfect après-ski environment and a celebrity hangout. "It's what you picture when you get off the slopes." 970-925-6760; theskyhotel.com

Prohibition Bar Minneapolis

This indoor lounge on the 27th floor of an art-deco skyscraper offers a sweeping vista of the Twin Cities. The swanky bar fills the space that was once the office and boardroom of local businessman Wilbur Foshay, who constructed the building that's now a W hotel. "They've kept some of the original feel, and it's very different from most clubs," Gerber says. 612-215-3700; starwoodhotels.com

C5 Atlantic City

This club within a club is on the fifth floor of the Chelsea, a non-casino hotel overlooking the boardwalk. It opens to the Cabana Club, an outdoor pool deck during warmer months, and is home to a heated cigar bar year-round. "Being able to experience this kind of lounge in a non-casino environment is pretty appealing," Gerber says. 800-548-3030; thechelsea-ac.com/fifthfloor.php

Eden Washington, D.C.

This bar, just a few blocks from the White House, has helped bring a cool factor to the nation's capital, Gerber says. It's a stand-alone lounge, with a bar on the top, fourth floor, kept toasty with special radiant heaters. He likes the cigar sommelier and the DJs — and so far, at least, the Obamas haven't complained about the noise. 202-785-0270; edendc.com

Continental Mid-town Philadelphia

Global tapas are on this menu at this stylish lounge a few blocks from Rittenhouse Square. The bar, operated by Stephen Starr, the celebrity chef behind some of the city's top restaurants, has heaters to keep things warm and stays open year-round. "It's one of those places that has incredible views," Gerber says. 215-567-1800; continentalmidtown.com

R View Seattle

You can watch the sun set over Puget Sound from this 28th-floor indoor lounge at the Renaissance hotel, Gerber says. But he also likes the crowd at the upscale high-rise. "It's a lifestyle hotel where you bring together locals and people visiting the city, so it's an interesting mix," he says. 206-583-0300; marriott.com

Sky Blue Park City, Utah

Located on the fourth floor of the Sky Lodge hotel, this indoor-outdoor lounge has a selection of whiskeys, scotches, cognacs and cigars. The deck is kept toasty by a fire pit, radiant heaters and a hot tub. "It's your quintessential ski town with a main street, and they've created this little boutique hotel with a great outdoor bar," Gerber says. 435-658-2500; theskylodge.com

SkyBar Los Angeles

Gerber admits he has a weak spot for this bar at the Mondrian Hotel that was designed by his company 15 years ago and later sold. "It has this outdoor kind of hut with heaters," he says. "When you step down to a pool, there are stairs with cushions and pillows." Even years later, this open-air living room attracts an A-list crowd drawn by the vibe and views of West Hollywood. 323-650-8999; mondrianhotel.com

Roof Chicago

Thanks to glass walls and heaters, partiers can still keep warm into early winter on this 27th floor Windy City lounge atop the downtown Wit Hotel. The outdoor portion closes once it gets bitter-cold, although the indoor section is open year-round. Guests like the telescope to check out other buildings, and the Hangover — a private area cantilevered over the side of the building. 312-239-9501; rooftonthevit.com



Sky Lodge

Park City, Utah: Sky Blue bar and lounge at the Sky Lodge hotel is made for a ski town.

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